



State of Washington

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

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Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

**ADDENDUM TO DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE**

**DATED: MARCH 28, 2008**

**Name of DNS:**

SHERMAN CREEK WILDLIFE AREA 5-YEAR HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

**Description of DNS:** This project is designed improve habitat for mule deer/elk winter range. There are 4,000-forested acres to be thinned and prescribed burn in 17 sections. The goal is to reduce the density of Douglas fir by removing trees which have invaded as a result of past logging practices and wild fire suppression, open up the Ponderosa pine stands using different spacing requirements and burn the resulting slash to improve regeneration of fire dependent species for deer and elk browse. Prescribed fire will be used to improve forage availability, forest health and reduce hazardous fuels. Pulpwood and/or timber will be harvested using ground-based systems, which may include feller processors and self-loading forwarders. There will be no new permanent road construction, but the project may necessitate temporarily reopening approximately 3.77 miles of closed roads and constructing approximately 2.03 miles of temporary roads. . .

**Proponent/Applicant:**

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Mick Cope, Acting Lands Division Manager  
600 Capitol Way North  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

**Location of DNS, including street, if any:**

The proposal lies within portions of Sections 20, 26, 27, 33 and 34, all in Township 36 North, Range 36 East, Willamette Meridian (W.M.); Sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33 and 34 all in Township 36 North, Range 37 East, W.M.

The proposed wildlife habitat improvement project lies within the forested portions of the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area in Ferry County, Washington, approximately 3.3 miles west of Kettle Falls on Highway 20.

- a. Sherman Creek WA acres 8,782; Proposal acres 4,000
- b. Road density: Lower Sherman Creek Drainage 0.832 miles/sq. mi. and lower Trout Creek sub-drainages and other drainages 0.448 mi./sq. mi.

**Lead Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

**WDFW is providing updated information on this project that may be of interest to other agencies or the public. The updated information provided below does not substantially change the analysis of significant impacts in the existing environmental checklist.**

The original environmental checklist dated March 25, 2008, should be modified to reflect the following changes:

Background 6: The prescribed burn phase is now set to include two seasons (fall and spring) beginning in March 2013 through November of 2018.

Background 11: The total area of planned prescribed burn is 3,335 acres, and is broken into several smaller units. Burning is scheduled to commence in early spring 2013. The 2008 EA states that prescribed fire would be conducted annually on approximately 120-240 acres and would be conducted mainly during the fall season. WDFW is proposing to burn more than this limited annual acreage each year, as it is already behind schedule for burning. Also, for several reasons, as much as 80% or more of burning may be completed in the spring.

Earth 1 b: Approximately 70 acres, or 2.1% of the planned burn areas, will occur in locations with over 45% slope. Due to terrain and fire line construction limitations, there is no way to avoid this and still conduct the prescribed burning. With this small percentage of steep-slope burning, any resulting erosion will be minimal.

Earth 1 e: This original project scope did not include the construction of machine fire lines. However, approximately 10.5 miles of machine fire line is planned for construction on the flat ground in the Rail 2 unit. In addition, approximately 15.63 miles of hand fire lines will be constructed.

Earth 1 h: Fire lines will be mitigated by reseeding with appropriate grass and forb species, in accordance with Ferry Conservation District recommendations, to ensure erosion from these fire lines will be negligible to absent.

Plants 4 b: The project includes approximately 10.5 miles of machine fire line construction and 15.63 miles of hand fire line construction.

Plants 4 d: Fire lines will be mitigated by reseeding with appropriate grass and forb species, in accordance with Ferry Conservation District recommendations, to ensure erosion from these fire lines will be negligible to absent.

Animals 5 a: add common night hawk and yellow-bellied marmot

Animals 5 d: Prescribed fire crew will avoid ignition adjacent to snags greater than 10" dbh, large woody debris and old slash piles with no fine fuels. Under this scenario 80% of snags greater than 10" dbh will be retained.

Environmental Health b 2: add bull dozer for the construction of the fire line.

Land and Shoreline Use 8 h: Fire lines built with hand tools will be avoided near seeps, bogs and springs. Hand fire lines maybe constructed in meadow areas. Prescribed fire crews will avoid ignition adjacent to springs, seeps, bogs, meadows and wetlands.

Historic 13 a: Where it is necessary to limit fire spread near cultural sites, surface fuels would be cleared without disturbing the soil. Fire crews will construct a hand lines around identified cultural sites in order to isolate the cultural site from the prescribed fire.

**Based on the original environmental checklist and the updated information provided in this addendum, we have determined that a new threshold determination is not warranted. There is no comment period associated with this SEPA environmental checklist addendum.**

**Responsible Official:** Bob Zeigler

**Position/Title:** SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, Regulatory Services Section

**Address:** 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

If you have questions about this action, please contact:

Bob Zeigler **Phone:** (360) 902-2578 **Fax:** (360) 902-2946 or  
**email:** [SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov)

**DATE OF ISSUE:** January 9, 2013

**SIGNATURE:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Zeigler".

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